

WoolProducers Executive Summary

Thursday, 14 November, 2019

Meeting commenced 9.00am

President's Report

The tabled paper was noted, including updates on the Nanjing Wool Market, seasonal and supply concerns, WPA & AWI Director Elections, WoolPoll Review and the RDC Review.

CEO's report

The tabled paper was noted, which was an overview of major areas of focus of the past 12 months including staffing, finances, member engagement and industry advocacy.

A discussion surrounding the AWI ROP recommendations negotiations followed.

Policy Managers Report

The tabled paper was noted, including trade update was provided including RCEP, EU-FTA and Brexit as well as Department of Agriculture Trade and Market Access Division meetings.

Future of WPA Animal Health & Welfare Advisory Committee

An overview of the discussions from the AH&WAC meeting was provided.

MOTION	That the WPA Board ratifies the revised TORs for the WPA Animal Health & Welfare Advisory Committee
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WPA Strategic Plan 2019-2022

MOTION	That the draft 2019-2022 WoolProducers Strategic Plan is ratified
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New Director Ratification

Following the 2019 WPA AGM new Independent WPA Director Stacey Lugsdin was appointed the Board.

MOTION	That the WPA Board ratifies Stacey Lugsdin as an Independent Director from the 14 November, 2019.
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Policy Determination

Animal Health and Welfare Resolutions

The following recommendations were carried by the Board.

MOTION	That the WPA H&W Committee agrees to seek AHA levies to co-fund the footrot project with equal contribution from AWI and/or SPA, or alternatively, fully fund the project if AWI / SPA do not commit funding.
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MOTION	That the WPA H&W Committee agree to co-fund the ovine pneumonia project with MDC contingent on AHA funding.
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MOTION	That the WPA H&W Committee support the wool production eligibility under the Emissions Reductions Fund advocacy plan and exploration of opportunities to introduce policies for the wool sector.
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MOTION	That the WPA H&W Committee support the market demands for non-mulesed wool advocacy plan.
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MOTION	That the WPA H&W Committee support the Future Wool advocacy plan.
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MOTION	That the H&W Committee agree to the release of the 'Lamb marking training guide' through the proposed release process.
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MOTION	That the WPA H&W Committee support in-principle the NSW DPI Biosecurity Planning project plan.
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Wool Industry Structure

A verbal update was provided on recent activities in this space. It was agreed that there was no need for a wholesale policy change in regard to seeking accountability and transparency over compulsory levy expenditure, but there was need to focus on what is achievable.

AWI AGM

A discussion regarding WoolProducers' approach to the AWI AGM was had.

The President, CEO and Policy Manager are attending the meeting and will seek clarification on Constitutional changes if required.

Wool Industry Consultative Panel/Wool Consultative Group

The agenda for the WCG was noted.

The Chair spoke to the lack of proper consultation that occurred for the Strategic Plan and how this cannot happen for the 10-Year Strategic Plan. The corresponding process undertaken for the meat industry strategic plan will be used as an example of how this should be done.

The draft WoolPoll Review TORs were received from the Department of Ag and will be presented at the WCG.

Modernising RDC System Review

The tabled paper was noted. It was agreed that:

- all RDC should have five-year strategic plans in alignment to ensure collaboration and efficiencies.
- Wool needs a standalone RDC so as not to get lost in the red meat sector

A draft will be circulated for Director input to be submitted on 25 November.

WoolProducers are also part of an NFF Commodity Coalition that has engaged Acil Allen to write a joint submission into this process.

Representation

SPA/WPA Update

An overview of the discussions so far was provided.

CEO to again follow up with SPA on the joint letter to SFOs on the process.

NFF Drought Committee

A verbal update was provided on activities of the NFF Drought Committee, including:

- Recent teleconference – NFF have finally taken a letter to government with recommendations; not all of the recommendations have been agreed to by the government
- Confusion around support for rate relief
- Livestock insurance – hasn't progressed. Grains have tried to pursue this and have been requested to leave it to livestock industries
- Federal money may be too late for some of the worst affected producers
- Ad hoc approach to drought is still occurring at a federal level
- There are concerns that NFF aren't acting on current drought situation
- WPA keep raising the way finance is being managed for farmers by institutions
- Confusion of issues between drought and Murray Darling debate

AWEX

A verbal update on recent AWEX activities, including:

- Good presentation at Melbourne meeting was made by AWEX
- Unable to secure the Annual Report prior to AWEX AGM later in the month
- SustainaWool figures will be available at the AWEX AGM in terms of numbers signed up
- NWD Review to be considered with recommendations to be provided

AWTA

The AWTA Annual Report was noted. A verbal update on AWTA activities, including:

- Volumes are down
- Test charges haven't increased due to diversification of business

WIA

The tabled paper was noted.

Discussion surrounded the value proposition of WIA and the fact that WPA provides WIA with technical information on issues such as trade, EAD, animal welfare, etc.

General Business

AHA Levies

Discussions were had regarding the levels of reserves and how can they be most effectively spent? It was agreed that there needs to be well researched project proposals in gaps in existing research or extension.

OJD

It was raised that iron absorption is an issue in OJD infected sheep and that previous research had been conducted but not finalised. It was agreed that now the punitive approach to OJD has been removed, along with the advent of vaccine to manage the disease, to reopen this issue could be extremely risky to the reputation of WPA and not considered necessary.

ACTION	Information from the researcher involved in the initial study would be sought for information
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Next Meetings

- 27 February (H&W) & 28 February (Exec), 2020
- 20 May (H&W) & 21 May (Exec), 2020
- Consideration given to hold meetings in conjunction with Wool Week, (TBC)
- 18 November, (H&W) & 19 November (Exec; AGM), 2020

Meeting close: 3.39pm